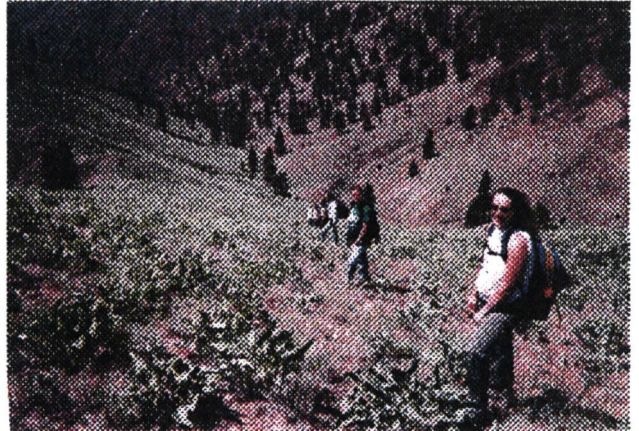


## 2003 Lemhi Cooperative Weed Management Area Project Narratives

### Clear Creek Fire Project Team Lead: Diane Schult Project Priority: 1

- Total Person Hours: 11,645
- Total Cost of Project: \$140,180
- Total Sites Inventoried: 94 weed sites totaling 1054.7 acres\*
- Total Acres Treated: 1202.8 acres\*\*
- New Invaders Located:
  - Rush Skeletonweed—25 sites were inventoried, totaling 29.2 acres
    - 37.5 acres\*\* were treated
  - Sulfur Cinquefoil—4 sites were inventoried, totaling 21.3 acres
    - 18.7 acres were treated



\* 952 of these acres are spotted knapweed sites.

\*\* Acres treated are greater than acres inventoried due to retreatment of infestations found in previous years.

- **Rush Skeletonweed**  
Forty-four sites have been located in the project area; but over 30 of them are less than one-tenth acre. Owl Creek, Rams Head South, Beaver Creek and Dry Gulch are priority areas for inventory in 2004.
- **Sulfur Cinquefoil**  
Twelve sites have been located in the project area.  
We will continue aggressive treatment in 2004 because of its potential impact.
- **Spotted Knapweed**  
Probably not as bad as we feared, but bad enough...
- **On-Going Management**  
This project is part of a larger Integrated Weed Management program for the area.  
The plan involves moving drainage by drainage up Panther Creek, treating all weeds as they are found. To date, \$335,000 of Black Area Restoration funds has been obligated in multi-year treatment contracts.

### Re-Seeding Project Team Lead: Shannon Williams Project Priority: 2

A "Herd" broadcast seeder was purchased in July of 2003. Along with the seeder, mounts were purchased for a Honda and Artic Cat 4-wheelers. Funds will be utilized to purchase seed for winter / spring seeding where weed control was applied in 2003.

**Citizens Against Weeds Project**  
**Team Lead: Mike Overacker**  
**Project Priority: 3**

*Herbicide Cost Share Program:*

This is year 3 for this very popular program, and ninety five (95) landowners participated this year. They own a total of 24,503 acres of land, and sprayed noxious weeds on 1653 acres of this land. These landowners spent a total of \$27,258.11 for herbicide of which they were reimbursed \$6,172.00.

In-kind:

➤ Total spent on herbicide	\$27,285.11
➤ Total hours landowners/spraying -1131 1131 hrs. @ \$20.00	\$22,620.00
➤ Total hours commercial spraying – 118.5 118.5 hrs. @ \$45.00	\$5,332.50
➤ Total in-kind value	\$55,237.61
➤ Plus value of spray equipment	
➤	

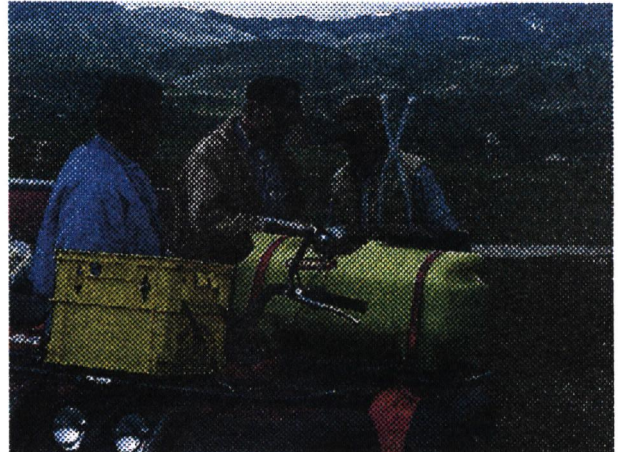
A CWMA project investment of \$6,172.00 returned 9 times the money in benefit.

*Loaner Equipment Program:*

The Lemhi CWMA purchased 4 additional backpack sprayers, making a total of 8 backpack sprayers available to the public. In addition, the CWMA has 2 sprayers that fit on ATV's also available for loan.

*Community Spray Days:*

The Lemhi CWMA helped to sponsor Spray Days in the communities of Salmon, Leadore and Gibbonsville in which the CWMA members went onto the property of participating landowners and helped them to spray their noxious weeds. These spray days are becoming annual events, and participation by property owners is growing.



The CWMA also helped the landowners in one entire watershed –Sandy Creek- to set up a season long spray project. The project had the support of all 17 landowners on Sandy Creek as well as the public land agencies with land there-BLM and Forest Service. The CWMA also assisted in obtaining a RAC grant for additional funding.

**Weed Superintendent**  
**Team Lead: Shannon Williams**  
**Project Priority: 4**

This is a project to provide supplemental funding to hire a full-time County/CWMA Weed Superintendent. While no one questions the need for someone to work full-time as the noxious weed coordinator, how to fund that position has been the challenge. Through



this project of financial agreements, the answer has been found. We hope to keep this working relationship for many years to come.

### **Education Project**

**Team Lead: Shannon Williams**

**Project Priority: 5**

- **Cattlemen's Winter School:** This weed education class was held as part of the Lemhi Cattle & Horse Growers annual Winter School. We had 40 people in attendance and gave three re-certification credits. Topics included new invaders, Lemhi County Weed Control activities and new herbicides available.
- **Noxious Weed Short Course:** This was an all-day program and worth six re-certification credits. The CWMA sponsored Celestine Duncan as the major speaker covering plant identification and biology and herbicide formulations. Other topics included calibration and writing a weed management plan. WE had 80 people in attendance from Montana and across southern Idaho. (See appendix for complete report of this project).
- **County Fair Weed Booth:** Katie McFarland, college intern, took charge of developing the weed booth. The booth includes a large display of CWMA projects, weed control information and a youth coloring book. Members of the various agencies took turns working in the booth. We also developed a Lemhi CWMA t-shirt that was sold at the booth. The t-shirts have "cute goat" on them telling people that he loves spotted knapweed.

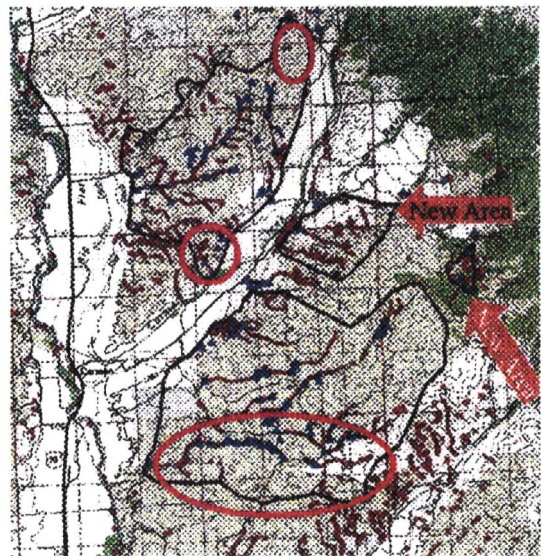


### **Graze Leafy Spurge**

**Team Lead: Chris Tambe**

**Project Priority: 6**

This has been the 3<sup>rd</sup> year for the leafy spurge-grazing project. The goats have been very effective at reducing the seed production of the plant and local ranchers are noticing an increase in the grasses. Bureau of Land Management personnel have monitored great plant reductions where there has combination of biological controls and grazing. The goats have re-grazed the same areas each year, but have also increased the acreages covered. This year, the herds were camped out at satellite camps, increasing the acreages covered and decreasing the travel time. The areas circled in orange and orange areas indicate new areas that were covered in 2003.





**Graze Knapweed**  
**Team Lead: Shannon Williams**  
**Project Priority: 7**

This was the third year of the grazing spotted knapweed demonstration trial. A college intern, Katie McFarland, was hired as part of this project. The University of Idaho cooperatively funded her. She worked on the demonstration trial, weed education, city spray days and two other weed studies.

The results of the trial show that grazing at the bud to bloom stage give the greatest reduction of seed heads of spotted knapweed. Final canopy and plant counts will be completed in spring, 2004. The timing was applied to the grazing of Salmon City Waterworks and also to the grazing of Lake Creek for spotted knapweed control. Grazing knapweed in a "herded" situation has been very successful and we look to expand the acreages in 2004.

This project has been the focus of two University of Idaho poster displays. One was in conjunction with University of Idaho's All College Annual Conference and the other at the Legislative session in Boise, Idaho. It has been presented at a national meeting for all Extension Educators. It will be presented in January at the National Society for Range Management meeting in Salt Lake City.

**Weed Technicians Summary**  
**Team Lead: Mike Overacker**  
**Project Priority: 8**

This was the first year for a project to provide extra funds for Lemhi CWMA members (primarily Lemhi County Weed Control) to hire extra seasonal help for weed control efforts. Most of the funds were used for direct herbicide application, but some was also used for inventory and monitoring. These extra funds allowed our folks to keep full crews of herbicide applicators going for the entire spray season. We hope to secure funds to continue this project in 2004.

**Kirtley Creek Spurge**  
**Team Lead: Chris Tambe**  
**Project Priority: 9**

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that a commercial applicator has been contracted by Lemhi CWMA to spray the leafy spurge in the Kirtley Creek drainage. The infestation has been dramatically reduced in density, but the entire area still needs to be checked for the few



Utilization cages demonstrate that goats are consuming spotted knapweed and leaving the grass.



Weed Technician Katie McFarland decides that grazing spotted knapweed is easier than pulling it.



survivors that always seem to reappear. The amount of herbicide needed for treatment is now just a small portion of the contract cost.

The CWMA plan for 2004 calls for retreating the same acres and to enlarge the area to include some of the adjacent land that will be grazed in 2004 by the goats, thus to see the combined effects of grazing and then herbicides on stressed leafy spurge.

**Berteroa Project Summary**  
**Team Lead: Mike Overacker**  
**Project Priority: 10**

*Berteroa incana* started in Lemhi County as a roadside invader, but has in some instances spread through fences onto adjacent lands. This project provided funds to help landowners purchase Telar herbicide for them to spray on this new invader on their property. This project must go hand in hand with an education effort because many landowners do not realize the potential threat that a *Berteroa* infestation would bring to their property. We must continue this project in 2004 if we are to stop *Berteroa* from becoming the next spotted knapweed.

In Kind: Lemhi County: Panther Creek/Meyers Cove

14 man days: 140hrs. @ \$20	\$2800
10.5 ATV Days @ \$100	\$1050
31oz Telar @ \$17.50/oz	\$542.50

**Mormon Ranch Project**  
**Team Lead: Tom Gionet**  
**Project Priority: 11**

The Middle Fork Ranger District (MFRD) of the Salmon - Challis National Forest (SCNF) received a grant from the Lemhi County CWMA for \$12,000 to assist in the treatment of noxious weeds in the Mormon Ranch/ Flying B Resort Ranch area of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River within the Frank Church- River of No Return Wilderness. The area identified within the grant was approximately 1,630 acres. The MFRD proposed to perform an inventory of weeds in the area and then to treat the identified infestations with the appropriate treatment measures, predominately chemical treatment (herbicides), but manual treatment would be performed where appropriate. The Idaho State Department of Fish and Game, the owners of the Mormon Ranch lands and the owners of the Flying B Resort Ranch both agreed to provide assistance in this effort.

To utilize a larger workforce and provide training to new crew members, the MFRD solicited the help of adjoining district. The Krassel Ranger District of the Payette National Forest, Salmon Cobalt and the North Fork Ranger Districts of the SCNF all provided crew members to assist in either the inventory process or the treatment work.

Unfortunately due to logistical problems and an active fire season the district was only able to complete treatment on 979 acres on the project area or approximately 60%. However at this time the MFRD has only spent \$ 3,578.18 or about 30% of the \$12,000 allocated through the grant. The \$3,578.18 that was spent was used to purchase flights

for crews and equipment from a variety of local air taxi services around the FC-RONRW. The district plans to continue to pursue completing the treatment work within the project area as time and funding allow.

As promised the Flying B Resort Ranch provided assistance with the project. Associated with this first treatment of the project area the Flying B provided an ATV with driver to assist with the shuttling of gear to the Mormon Ranch Area. It was agreed and planned that they would provide a more significant role in subsequent treatments of the area, but due to logistical problems no additional treatments were performed.

As agreed the Idaho State Fish and Game led by Greg Painter provided support and performed treatment activities on the Mormon Ranch portion of the Project Area. Greg made a total of two visits to the site and performed both chemical and mechanical treatment of weeds at the Mormon Ranch.

**Rooster Comb Project**  
**Team Lead: Joe Robson**  
**Project Priority: 12**

This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> year for a project that was initiated by the permittees on the Rooster Comb grazing allotment. Because of the steep terrain, much of the herbicide application has been done via backpack and horse pack sprayers. The 2003 funding purchased a horse pack sprayer that will be available for use by individual property owners with similar rough terrain conditions.



Rooster Comb project involved the Leadore Ranger District and permittee, Joe Tonsmire. They had a joint spray day that involved the permittee, Forest Service and Lemhi County weed crew. The following was accomplished with spray rigs, ATV sprayers and horse pack sprayers:

- Sprayed 3 ½ miles of roads on ranch to keep vehicles from picking up spotted knapweed seeds. This was sprayed with a tractor sprayer.
- Sprayed 2 miles of ditch banks that were getting knapweed started on them.
- Sprayed 30 acres of hillside with backpack sprayers.
- Sprayed 12 acres of sprinkler irrigated ground for black henbane and spotted knapweed.
- Sprayed edges of hay fields for spotted knapweed and tansy at Gertson Creek.
- Sprayed 2 ½ miles of roads on Sketter Hollenbeck place.
- Sprayed 3 miles of ditches on Holleback place.
- Sprayed Bob Featherstone's driveway for spotted knapweed.
- Sprayed weeds on BLM allotment



- Total herbicide used included 23 gallons of Tordon, 18 gallons of 2,4-D, and 5 gallons of Curtail.

## **Roll-over Projects:**

### **Aerial Spurge Survey Summary**

**Team Lead: Mike Overacker**

This project purchased hours of flight time with an individual who has a powered parachute, to inventory and GPS spurge infestations. A map of these new infestations was created using these GPS points, and then a ground team treated or will treat them. Goat grazing has also been tried to hold the infestation at bay until they can be chemically treated. This project has shown that this type of aerial surveying can be a cost-effective way to find and map leafy spurge infestations in rough terrain. The challenge now is to rapidly get ground crews to these new sites to do treatment.

In Kind:	Lemhi County:	Flight Time 3 hrs. @ \$20	\$60
		Herb. Appl. 40 hrs @ \$20	\$800
		BLM Maps 2hrs.	\$40
		BLM Spraying 60 hrs @ \$20	\$1,200

### **Pine Creek Girl Scout Ranch**

**Team Lead: Cindy Haggas**

The Pine Cr Ranch, owned and operated by the Girl Scout Silver Sage Council, is a relatively large in-holding (approx 180 ac) within the Salmon-Challis National Forest. The Ranch is located within the Pine Cr drainage, where noxious weeds have been treated along Forest roads and travelways for several years.

Aggressive road treatment within recent years together with an inventory of adjacent National Forest lands indicate that control of spotted knapweed is feasible and a realistic objective. The Ranch property is an important component of reaching this goal. Spotted knapweed populations dominate much of the upland pasture and homestead areas that comprise the Ranch. These populations have the potential to spread to adjacent public lands, as some have already done, as well as be transported to weed free roadways through a common entry road (Pine Cr Rd, FS #32). Similarly, weeds have spread from the Forest travelways toward the Ranch.

The Ranch presents a great opportunity to demonstrate many factors of weed control. Critical to the projects success is the presence of an informed, willing partner and cooperator, as represented by the Girl Scout Silver Sage Council. Education, awareness, and prevention, are weed control concepts also shared by the Silver Sage Council. There is an opportunity to incorporate and display these concepts via Girl Scout summer camp sessions, and with the camp directors and property managers on a long term weed management plan.

The project will include inventory and mapping, identification and education, weed control treatment, monitoring and reporting.

**Objectives and Methods:** Control noxious weeds, primarily spotted knapweed, within the Pine Cr Ranch and adjacent public lands.

1. Inventory and GPS mapping. Complete and coordinate past inventory efforts; obtain GPS coordinates for entry into the noxious weed database maintained by the Salmon-Challis National Forest; produce map.
2. Information and Education. Promote educational aspects of weed control in an ecological context with camp managers and Scouts. Provide identifying information on noxious weeds. Support efforts to locate additional weed sites and recruit volunteers to assist in treatment efforts. All sites will be confirmed and recorded by the treatment crews.
3. Weed Control Treatment. Herbicide applications (private individuals, USFS personnel, private contractors) will be completed on Ranch property and adjacent USFS lands. Mechanical treatments will be completed where appropriate. Biocontrol agents will be released where appropriate and as available.
4. Monitoring. Treatments will be assessed for effectiveness and complete spot treatments completed if needed.
5. Reporting. Final reports will be made to Lemhi CWMA and ISDA.

**Results from 2003:**

1. Inventory and GPS mapping: Weed population mapping continued during 2003 by USFS personnel and are registered within the Forest weed database.
2. Information and Education: A site visit was completed during June 2003 with Girl Scout Leaders and camp counselors. Topic discussed were: plant identification, the ecology of native plant displacement by invasive species, and a weed control hands-on project for the Scouts was identified and marked on the ground. Discussions with the Ranch managers continued regarding the implementation of long term weed control measures.
3. Weed Control Treatment: The herbicide treatment contract (345 ac including 180 ac of Ranch property and 165 ac of adjacent USFS lands) was completed during May 2003. Total cost of the contract was \$11,000, whereby ISDA contributed \$10,500 and approximately \$1500 was contributed by USFS. Substantial in-kind contributions involving mechanical weed treatments were also completed by Ranch personnel and volunteers (see attached). Treatments consisted of pasture mowing, clearing brush/weeds, and ditch maintenance, in addition to herbicide application. Equipment (approx \$41,000) was also purchased to complete the pasture management activities.



These in-kind contributions from the property owner have facilitated and complemented the herbicide treatments.

4. Monitoring: Treatments were assessed and spot treatments completed as needed.

### **Additional Weed Project**

#### **Lewis & Clark Placemats**

**Team Lead: Pat Hurt**

This project was modeled after Montana's Lewis and Clark placemats that depict a site that Lewis and Clark visited on their journey. It also shows native plants that they would of encountered and noxious weeds that are encountered today. The placemat includes basic information about the natives and invasives a professionally done picture of a historic landmark, and a word search. They have been well received by local restaurants and will be utilized for lunches at the National Society for Range Management meetings in January.

Appendix I		
	Steering Committee	
<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Lemhi County Extension Agent</b>	<b>Forest Service Representative</b>
Michael Overacker	Shannon Williams	Dennis Hillard
Lemhi County weed Control	University of Idaho Extension	Leadore Ranger District
Salmon, ID	salmon, ID	Leadore, ID
756-2824	756-2824	768-2500
lemhi@uidaho.edu	shannonw@uidaho.edu	
<b>Bureau of Land Management</b>	<b>NRCS</b>	<b>Soil Conservation District</b>
Steve Beverlyn	Mark Olson	Dale Edwards
Salmon Field Office	Conservationist	Rancher/Landowner
Salmon, ID	Salmon, ID	Salmon, ID
	756-3211	756-3932
	Mark.olson@id.state.gov	
<b>Private Citizen</b>	<b>Dept. of Transportation</b>	<b>Idaho Dept. of Fish &amp; Game</b>
Jack & Thelma Kesi	Kirk Finn	Greg Painter
Property Owners	DOT	Fish Biologist
Elk Bend, ID	Rigby, ID	Salmon, ID
894-2486	745-7781	756-2271
	kfinn@state.ud.us	gpainter@idfg.state.id.us
<b>County Weed Board</b>	<b>Private Citizen</b>	<b>Private Business</b>
Gary Jenson	Orlo Johnson	Jerry Hamilton
Rancher/Landowner	Property owner	Formation Capital
Salmon, ID	Salmon, ID	Salmon, ID
756-2302	756-3828	756-4578
		jhamilton@formcap.com
<b>Idaho Dept. of Lands</b>		
Chris Lowman		
Dept. of Lands		
Idaho Falls, ID		
525-7167		



## Appendix II

### Project Summaries

Project Name	Weed Species	Acres Treated
Clear Creek	Rush Skeletonweed	47
	Spotted Knapweed	
Reseeding		
Citizens Against Weeds	Spotted Knapweed	3450
	Leafy Spurge	35
	Canada Thistle	255
	Whitetop	45
	Dalmation Toadflax	14
Graze Spurge	Spurge	9240
Graze Knapweed	Spotted Knapweed	350
Weed Technicians	Spotted Knapweed	450
	Whitetop	140
	Russian Knapweed	12
	Leafy Spurge	125
	Berteroa incana	45
	Rush Skeletonweed	3
Kirtley Creek	Leafy Spurge	110
Berteroa	Berteroa	45
Mormon/Flying B	Rush Skeletonweed	60
Rooster Comb	Spotted Knapweed	240
Salmon River Spurge	Leafy Spurge	125
Pine Creek Girl Scout Ranch	Spotted Knapweed	325
Aerial Spurge survey	Leafy Spurge - Surveyed	750

# IMPACT



Lemhi County, 201 Broadway, Salmon, ID 83467; 208-756-2824; Fax: 208-756-2349

## Lemhi Cooperative Weed Management Area Noxious Weed Short Course

### *The Situation*

Webster defines a weed as "any undesired, uncultivated plant, especially one crowding out desired plants." A noxious weed is one known to crowd out desirable forages, spreads rapidly and is difficult to control.

Noxious weeds are a threat to the land and have an impact on every person. Lemhi County is losing hundreds of acres of productive ground to noxious weeds each year. As noxious weeds establish in an area, they begin to crowd out desirable vegetation for wildlife and livestock. This has a direct impact on recreationist whom want to view wildlife and ranchers whom make a living from the land.

The Lemhi Cooperative Weed Management Area (LCWMA) recognizes that education is the key to winning this war on noxious weeds. People must be able to recognize and identify noxious weeds so they may accurately report and control them. Weed management plans must be efficient, effective and not cost prohibitive.

### *Our Response*

The Education Committee of the LCWMA chose to host a "Noxious Weed Short Course" to educate people on plant identification and biology, herbicide formulation, calibration of spray equipment and development of weed management plans. Partners in the course included financial support from Salmon/Cobalt National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, Salmon District, and Idaho

Department of Agriculture. The Idaho Department of Agriculture also supported the program with six re-certification credits for licensed applicators.

When live plants are used, plant identification is easily learned. Celestine Duncan of Weed Management Services is a speaker that uses live plants to teach identification and biology. Celestine brought 12 different live noxious weed specimens.



Many herbicide formulations are available on the market today. The formulation affects the type of equipment utilized, mixing procedures and additives needed. Celestine used a hands on-lab to teach this concept.

Proper application of herbicide is important to obtain control of noxious weeds. Knowing how much herbicide the application equipment is applying is necessary for an effective rate and economic costs. If too little is applied the herbicide does not kill the plant and time and resources have not been utilized wisely. When too much herbicide is applied, it is expensive and affects non-target vegetation. Will Reed of Chemilogical Weed Management worked with Mike Overacker and Bob Petry of the Lemhi County Weed Department to present a section on sprayer calibration.



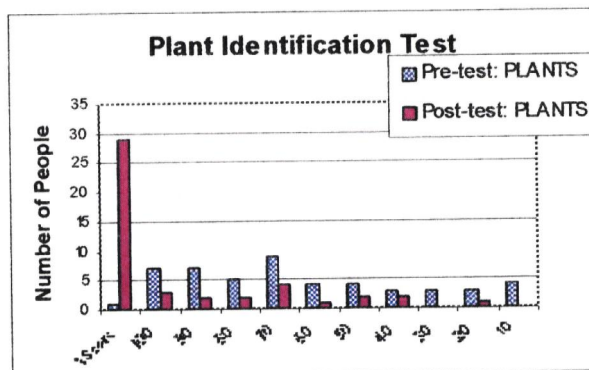
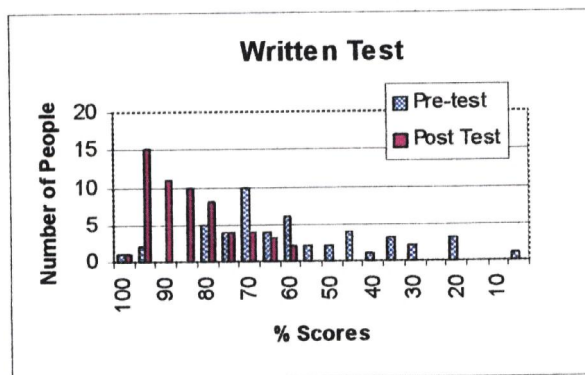
When battling noxious weeds, plans must insure efficient use of time and resources. Weed management plans are unique to each situation. Shannon Williams, Lemhi County Extension Educator, developed a power point and hands-on lab to assist participants with the concepts. Participants were grouped into teams to analyze one of six situations. Each situation included a map of noxious weed locations, budget and additional information. Each team developed a weed management plan and reported to the class what the plan was and why.

During the development of the short course, a goal was set to have 40 participants. Advertising included flyers, local newspaper articles, a radio spot, and a local email list serving LCWMA members and county extension offices. Members of LCWMA then forwarded the advertisement to other interested people. When registration closed 80 people were registered and approximately 20 people turned away. Participants were from two states, Montana and Idaho, and had traveled over 250 miles to attend the course! Participants ranged from people who had been working with noxious weeds for 25+ years, to those who did not know what a noxious weed was.

## Program Outcomes

A pre and post-test were used to determine the change in knowledge and learning. Participants took a plant identification test on ten plants as they registered and the post test during lunch break. A written pre-test and post-test covered all other materials. Plant identification improved from 29 people passing with 60% and above to 40 people passing. On the written test, scores improved from 32 people passing to 58 people passing.

Comments regarding the course included "program excellent—great education tool"; "good class and good instructors"; "I'm glad someone else has to develop the weed plan and I just have to carry it out"; and "awesome course."



**Future Plans:** Due to the success of the course, the LCWMA has plans to offer another course in 2004 and is currently applying for funding to cover the cost of the course. Changes to the format will allow for more participants.

## For More Information

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